



Gibbous RISING

May 1978
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A Feminist News Collective
Sacramento

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SACTO & ELSEWHERE
YOLO

HER DAY WILL COME!

Eileen Gaines

Yvonne Day was fired in January 1978 by the Human Rights Commission. The charge was "disdain and disregard for authority". Ms. Day was employed by the Human Rights Commission for three one-half years as an Investigator. Her work and attitude were considered more than adequate and her standing in the community is and has always been excellent.

Ms. Day feels she was fired because she filed two grievances concerning unfair employment practices and sexist treatment by Samuel Cullers, chairperson of the HRC and Claudel Kinnex, Director of the Human Rights Commission, in reference to women. Ms. Day was told by a reliable source that if she filed the last grievance she would be fired.

In April 1977, Claudel Kinnex was hired as director of HRC. He was hired over two other qualified people, Melissa Lawson and Willie Hunter, for the position of director. Samuel Cullers remarked he (the commissioners) did not hire Melissa Lawson because she was too young, she was female and they already had too many females employed, and the commission did not think the staff would work for her. Willie Hunter was overlooked for the position because in (Culler's words) "he is tied down to the females in the office".

Upon the arrival of the new director, staff members noticed a definite change in procedure and attitude. Ms. Day has stated that after his first week on the job, Mr. Kinnex started behaving outrageously. He would yell, humiliate, and degrade members of the staff, and on several occasions did so in front of witnesses. He made sexist remarks about and to female employees and sexually harassed Yvonne and other women on the staff. When Yvonne refused to put up with Kinnex's sexual advances, he harassed and threatened to fire her. Yvonne feels that Kinnex has problems with strong women. "Mr. Kinnex admitted to me that he was having problems with the women on the staff", states Day. "I asked him if he was sexist. His statement was 'yes, so what', I asked him how could he be a minority man and be so abusive to another person's rights."



Photo courtesy of Yvonne Day

Employment Harrassment

Ms. Day's position as Investigator included being in charge of community operations, affirmative action and employment. Ms. Day was statewide coordinator of the Sacramento Community Coalition for Media Change (SCCMC), which fell into the category of community operations. She was ordered off the committee by Kinnex because he didn't "want any white boys" telling him what to do. She was also ordered to cease participating in the Black Leadership Force. Her participation in community activities and her community ties threatened Kinnex. She was ordered to end all associations that were community related.

Kinnex made it very difficult for Day to complete reports on her cases. On several occasions her work with SCCMC was sabotaged. Kinnex would arbitrarily take unfinished transcripts and pre-finish materials away from her. When Ms. Day would ask

where her work was, the secretary would point to Kinnex's office. He gave no explanation as to why he took the material. When the Commissioners would ask for the material concerning SCCMC, Kinnex would deny knowledge of the material and imply incompetence on Day's part.

Another one of Day's cases which was sabotaged by Kinnex dealt with Bill Spooner Jr. An attorney was assigned to the Spooner case and legal proceedings were started (to stop discrimination against Spooner's contracting firm) by HRC. Kinnex took the liberty of having a staff person investigate how HRC could get out of the case. HRC was the agency that filed the case in Federal Court and was responsible for legal action. Ms. Day was the Investigator assigned and the Commission had voted that HRC should take the proper action. Kinnex spent much time berating Day for filing the case when, in reality, the (don't on back page)

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EDITORIAL: Inherent Trouble

Feminism is a political genre which reflects our social reality, a movement that avoids partisan ideologies and revolts against the false ideas created by a society in effort to reduce a false consciousness. Women involved in the movement are concerned with destroying existing limitations that order the conduct of society. Feminism has established a community of activity, a way of thinking and a mode of life necessary to function within a reality of insufficient conditions.

As women, we can see the inequality that takes place in our social reality - but what about the inequality within our own structure. We must constantly be aware that our thinking is affected by our social milieu. Our learned behavior will carry over into our struggles to fight together as women and often destructive elements may appear.

We come together with an understanding of cause. We unite and work, we consist of different backgrounds, but we proclaim our similarities through a shared oppression. Yet while fighting external prejudices we allow those same prejudices to destroy ourselves. Perhaps the amount of women who refuse to understand Third World sisters are negligible, but such behavior is divisive and inherent to the movement. This ingrown prejudice seems to have a double action, one of age old fear causing reactionary anger.

Women who turn away from issues of racism and sexism within the movement create a climate of anger. One should not question motives behind any woman who wishes to be involved in the movement--but should one question the circumstantially involved woman's behavior once she has found her politics? Unfortunately some actions and behavior is errant even though it is

birthed through the guise of feminism.

The allowance of power and elite groups can only lead to a dispersed form of political thinking. Has the women's movement evolved to a point of departure? Possibly, but perhaps not negatively- feminism should offer all women a sense of security, not disenchantment. Centers, shelters, and crisis agencies should be forceful with their commonality and demand a collective condition.

We will destroy ourselves if our movement continues to be reminiscent of Civil War tactics and anti-civil liberty actions. There are many questions without resolutions about our struggle as women. We have created a paradox. We fight outwardly against the oppressor and develop our own form of prejudice. With fear and anger we are exploiting ourselves and we must realize the danger.

LYNN PATTEN

COMMENTARY

Until the time when every sexually active person receives factual information about contraception, knows where and how to obtain it, and how to use it, there will be people engaging in sexual activity without the protection of reliable birth control. The result will be unwanted pregnancies.

Until the time when there is a 100% effective, safe, reversible, inexpensive contraceptive which is easily available to all in need, there will be unwanted pregnancies.

The poor, and the young, are especially vulnerable to the results of lack of contraceptive education and to the lack of easy access to contraception. They therefore experience a disproportionate number of unwanted pregnancies.

LETTERS

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors is considering a recommendation that the Center for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer be defunded immediately because of high costs.

Established to provide affordable breast cancer screening for all women, the Center subsidizes its \$25.00 fee with General Revenue Sharing monies controlled by Sacramento County.

Breast cancer screening as it exists at our Center, is not available elsewhere. However, comparable services from the private medical community would cost approximately \$115.00 (mammogram plus 30 minute office visit). The County feels the Center costs should not exceed this comparison and we can comply.

Concerned citizens who do not want this unique preventive health service discontinued should contact their County Board of Supervisors immediately. The Chairperson of the Sacramento

Early trimester abortions are legal in the United States. Medi-Cal is a publicly supported health care program designed to give poor, and young, people the same access to good health care that is available to more affluent Californians. To eliminate one legal, medical service would not only defeat the purpose of Medi-Cal, but would deny many poor or young women the choice to terminate -- safely -- an unwanted pregnancy.

Those who are morally opposed to abortion should be able to act in accordance with their own conscience. Denying Medi-Cal funds for abortions would deny thousands of California women that opportunity, and would force them to make the tragic choice between continuing an unwanted pregnancy to term and seeking out cheap, "back alley" abortions, which are frequently medically dangerous. Studies that

County Board of Supervisors is E. Henry Kloss.

This project is one of the few human service projects which assist all taxpayers - regardless of race or socio-economic status. It is, most directly, a woman's program, but husbands, lovers, fathers and sons benefit from early detection of breast cancer for their loved ones.

To contact the County Board of Supervisors, telephone 440-5411 or write to 827 7th Street, Sacramento, 95814.

YESTERDAY

I loved a woman, she's here no more, swished away by the wind, she's on a cloud of joy, I wished her farewell while I stood by the door, that swept away her life, I'll touch nor see her more. She's gone from this life, smiling away, can't stay any longer, GOOD-BY THIS DAY, TOMORROW HELLO!

In memory of a great woman Shirly Hutcherson:

By Barbara Ward

denying funds for abortions does not prevent abortions from taking place -- it simply throws them into the underground of illegal, unsafe, unclean, exploitative abortionists.

The social and human costs of not providing Medi-Cal abortions are bound to be staggering: it would deny poor and young women freedom of choice, and would lock them into the poverty cycle; it would bring thousands of new customers to the welfare system, and would cost taxpayers at least 10 times as much each year to provide necessities for those mothers and children; many women would die or become seriously ill from complications resulting from illegal abortions.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

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The opinions expressed in Gibbous RISING do not reflect the views of the Sacramento Women's Center.

RACISM: A THREE-SIDED COIN

Until a few years ago the Women's Movement was viewed by Third World women as a white middle class organization. SEXISM was the cry which rang out all over the land, with little, if any talk of racism attached. Many Third World women sat on the side lines wondering who were these crazy women and what the hell were they bitching about. All you could see were white faces shouting: "freedom, down with sexism and exploitation of women". The major response to these cries by the Third World community was "what do white women need freedom from?" Anger sprang forth from the Third World community protesting that the popularity of the women's movement was putting the issue of racism as a secondary priority. Then a new cry was heard from white feminists, DOWN WITH RACISM, SEXISM, CLASSISM, AND ALL EXPLOITATION that confronts women.

Although great efforts are being made by many white feminists to rectify the past herstory of discrimination toward Third World women, racism still exists as a cancer in the blood stream of the women's movement. Many questions are being asked today by Third World women with little if any response. How would you answer these questions?

Are white feminists aware (or conscious) that racism exists within the women's movement?

Why haven't Third World issues been as much of a priority as issues which predominantly effect white women?

Why is there a lack of Third World history in feminist literature and bookstores?

Is the exclusion of Third World herstory, culture, and issues merely an oversight?



graphic by Tinker Ramey

**Racism exists as
a cancer in the
bloodstream of the
Women's Movement**

Have white feminists openly and knowingly discriminated against Third World women?

Does the women's movement really want to deal with Third World women or are they merely asking for tokenism (in order to show a good front and obtain funding)?

Is there a place for Third World women in the women's movement?

Can white feminists and Third World feminists work together?

While white women have ignored the issue of racism, Third World women are guilty of politically isolating themselves. Third World women must come forth and participate actively. They can no longer afford the luxury of sitting on the sidelines complaining and high-signing about "a white orientated" movement that they aren't a part of or have no voice in. Third World women must take a stand within the feminist movement. They must make themselves visible and vocal. They must stop waiting for the invitation of acceptance.

Third World and white women must stand together in unity if our fight for freedom, (the elimination of racist and sexist oppression of all women) is to become a reality. We must find that common denominator that will unite us in our struggle.

We must remember that there are three sides to every coin. If we stand the coin on the edge, only then can both sides be seen. If we deface either side of the coin, it becomes valueless. If the women's movement wants to remain effective and coherent, we must see sexism and racism as equal priorities.

Barbara Ward

F.B.I. Terrorism

In 1977 Assata Shakur, a radical black activist, was convicted of felony murder by an all white jury and was sentenced to life in prison. This conviction was the culmination of 15 years of harrassment by the FBI and local and state law enforcement. Shakur had been charged with over 20 felonies during the 15 years and all but one of the charges were dismissed, finally last year the state of New Jersey obtained a conviction against her.

Shakur was convicted of felony murder for her part in a shootout on the New Jersey turnpike (a highway known as a place where blacks are constantly harrassed by police) in which Assata's companion and a state trooper were killed. She was not armed and contends there was no reason but harrassment for the police to stop her vehicle. Assata Shakur is now suing the federal government for 15 million dollars for damages she has suffered

as a result of FBI, state, and local law enforcement agencies conspiring against her as a part of a COINTEL-PRO intelligence operation conducted by the FBI in the 1960's and early 1970's. The suit charges that the New Jersey shootout was the inevitable result of the FBI/COINTEL-PRO dragnet. Once arrested she was held in maximum security isolation cell at an all male prison (even though she never tried to escape or violate prison rules). The suit also demands that the courts enjoin federal and state agencies from using records gathered by COINTEL-PRO to keep her locked up.

Since the suit was filed, Shakur has been transferred to the maximum security prison for women in Alderson, West Virginia.

Racism In Court

The Massachusetts Supreme Court is reviewing the case of Ella Ellison, a black woman who has been imprisoned since 1974 for the murder of a policeman. She was sentenced for life imprisonment without possibility of parole after being convicted of driving a getaway car in a 1973 robbery in which a police officer was murdered. Under Massachusetts law, a person convicted of a felony in which a murder is committed, is equally guilty of the murder.

Ellison's conviction was due to the false testimony given by two men who participated in the robbery and later admitted to having lied about Ellison's part. Their admission and arguments that the prosecution withheld important information were not considered significant until this March when the Massachusetts Supreme Court agreed to review the case.

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The following came from the Bloomington (Indiana) Gay Rights Coalition which voted unanimously to write it. The Coalition is a political action group open to members of all sexual identities and sexual preferences. You can contact the Bloomington Gay Rights Coalition, 400 S. Henderson #2, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

On December 30, 1977, one of the most highly regarded gay/feminist publications in the world was raided and effectively closed down by the police. "The Body Politic", which is run by a collective of gay/feminist socialists in Toronto, was the target of a sudden police raid. Several collective members were arrested and charged with "use of the mails for...transmitting anything that is obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous." Although any reasonable person would know that it would only be necessary for the police to seize one copy of the issue in question, the police carted away 12 crates of "Body Politic's" possessions, including the complete subscription list, manuscripts, correspondence, and in general all papers it takes to run a magazine. Also seized were the papers and all the books printed and offered for sale by "The Pink Triangle Press", which publishes books of gay interest. "Body Politic" and "Pink Triangle Press" are effectively crippled by the seizure of their possessions and the legal problems of collective members.

We have written this letter for two reasons. For one, we want everyone in the gay/lesbian/feminist community to know of this oppressive attack on one of our leading vehicles of communication. Presses and publications are undoubtedly the most effective media for spreading the ideas and news of the gay and feminist movements. We would like to suggest that everyone send money to the defense fund for "Body Politic" and "Pink Triangle Press". Send contributions to: Cornish, King, Sachs, and Waldman, Barristers and Solicitors, 111 Richmond St. Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario,

ONCE ALLOWED AND SUPPORTED, THERE IS NO END TO CENSORSHIP

Canada, M5H 3N6. Checks should be made out to Lynn King in trust for the Body Politic Free the Press Fund.

Secondly, in the last few years, more and more feminist and lesbian groups in the U.S. and Canada have been involved with censorship and anti-pornography campaigns. In most cases, this has centered on opposition to pornographic materials that glorify violence against women, such as the movie "Snuff". What many of these women fail to realize is that their support of censorship only lends fuel to the enemies of feminism and gayness. Even the stupidest of prosecutors, police, or anti-porn campaigners realize that serious gay and feminist publications and books pose a much greater threat to their traditional views of society and family than does the hardest of hard core porn. An issue of "Body Politic" or a publication from a feminist press such as Diana Press will spread more new ideas, influence more people, cause more action for gay liberation and feminism than any number of showings of the movie "Snuff" will inspire violence. For this reason, the target of nominal anti-pornography campaigns is bound to be political writings that support sexual freedom. Such was the case in Toronto. We are sure there is as much "pornography" in Toronto as any other city, yet the police used the anti-obscenity laws to close down a political magazine whose appeal to "prurient interest" would be hard to find, unless somebody out here is getting off on scholarly book reviews or news reports of police raids on gay bars, the usual content of "Body Politic". The specific article for which "Body Politic" was cited was an interview with three men who have sexually been involved with boys. The tone and intent of the article was clearly stated to be an unbiased inquiry into the nature of people involved in this type of sexual activity. "Body Politic" is a self-examining publication that has been so free of sexism or erotica that it can publish an

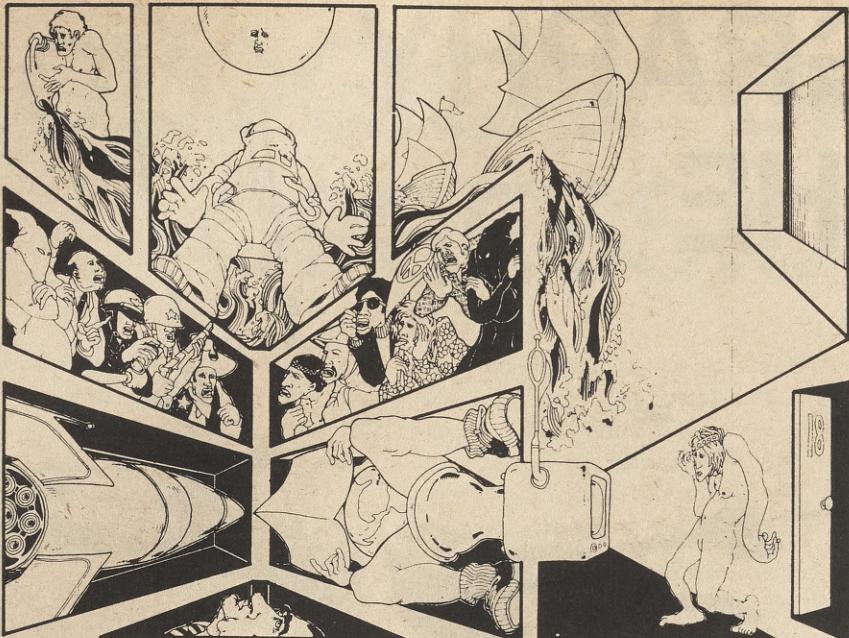
article on that topic without sensationalism. The police were able to hone in on that article at a time when "child pornography" is a topic of great interest and crusades, and use it as an excuse for censorship of everything "Body Politic" stands for, by effectively closing down the magazine.

Once allowed and supported, there is no end to censorship. Who will appoint the censors, who will judge what is censurable. Does anyone think that the mayor will appoint a censorship committee of lesbians? When the police raid feminist bookstores and close down gay magazines will they be accompanied by a group of lesbians? Perhaps when the gay and feminist publications are all closed down, groups of women will go around sticking little pieces of paper on the locked doors of the gay and lesbian publication's offices that say "This Offends Women"? The movie "Snuff" is undoubtedly objectionable, a lot of books and movies are objectionable, but censorship - the end to a free press and freedom of speech - is the most obscene, most violent against women, children, and men, most objectionable of all pornography. We appeal to the people of the U.S. and Canada and the world, to cease all participation in any kind of censorship campaign. You're cutting your throats.

Excerpted from GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
22 Bromfield St.
Boston, Mass.
Vol. 5 No. 36

THANK YOU

We want to thank the following women for contributing their talent and support to this issue of Gibbons RISING: Thanks Jaci White, Theresa Corrigan, Eileen Gaines, Zoe Tafoya, Whitney Rogge, Alice Adeé, J. Marie Murphy.



Alternatives to Censorship

Response to Bloomington's Gay Rights Coalition's letter.

While I share the outrage of the authors of this article over the police harassment of a gay/feminist publication, I feel the need to identify two areas of concern which arise in me as I read the open letter. I would expect or hope that the problematic areas result from the letter's lack of clarification rather than to a political callousness to the oppression of women and children inherent in pornography.

The authors refer to the "objectionable" article and state it was an "unbiased inquiry into the nature of people involved in this type of sexual activity" (adult males sexually involved with boys). I have not read the original article, so my point may be a mute one. However, the article does not specify whether the "boys" were adolescents willingly participating in a sexual relationship or whether, in fact, they were male children molested by men. The distinction is essential. Adolescents, who are willingly and capable of making choices, about the nature and frequency of their sexual activities, are frequently denied the right to do, especially young lesbians and gay men. The law, while it is notoriously unresponsive to the female child who has been sexually abused by a male relative, readily exercises its wrath on those who dare to relate sexually to a same sex adolescent. An unbiased inquiry into the nature of those people who would choose to follow their need to relate to a certain adolescent

despite the risks seems to be an appropriate topic for a gay-feminist publication.

If, however, the article was an investigation of adult males who "related" to male children, it seems hardly appropriate for a purported feminist publication to view such an inquiry from an unbiased point of view. The power and size differential between a child and an adult makes consent an irrelevant issue. To make a choice about sexual encounters, one must have knowledge and personal power to accept or reject the encounter. In a society where children have no power and very little knowledge about sexuality and intimacy, an adult who becomes sexually involved with a child is asserting their power over the child, thereby abusing her/him. This seems to me to be an issue about which feminists are and should be clear. How many of us would appreciate reading an "unbiased" inquiry into men who choose to rape us?

The second issue I wish to address is that of censorship and the various protests women have raised over the abusive treatment of women and children in pornography. I take exception to the implication made by the authors that censorship stands to do us more harm than the type of violence perpetrated in films like "Snuff." Even to make the equation indicates a gross insensitivity to the fact that women have actually been murdered to provide entertainment for society's

(purient) interests. Countless women and children are violently brutalized to meet the demands of the porn market. The authors would seem to suggest that feminist groups should stand by and do nothing for fear of the strange bedfellows protests attract.

The warning made by the authors, however apparently insensitive, is a valid and essential one which needs to be seriously considered by feminists. Censorship is and always has been a vicious tool of oppressors to silence the voices of the oppressed. To call for censorship is to call for our own destruction. However, the authors fail to mention alternatives to censorship or silent acceptance. In a capitalistic system which thrives on the consumption of goods, boycott can be a most effective tool. Goods that are not consumed become obsolete. The porn industry is a multi-million dollar enterprise. If there were no profit in it, it would not exist. Protests by groups of people can publicize and encourage boycott. Boycott, engaged in effectively, can eradicate industry.

Work in the area of anti-porn legislation is also criticized in the article. Again, feminists must be careful about what they seek in legislation, if that is the route they choose to take. Legislation must address the issue of violence and sexual abuse, not censorship or sexuality. We must be clear about our issues, or we will, in fact, become the pawns and dupes of fascists.

The question, then, is not whether we should openly assert our outrage over abusive treatment of women or children, but how to maintain a political awareness of the implications of our actions. We must fight openly against our oppression without falling prey to forces who would use us against ourselves. We must develop a political sophistication to outsmart those who oppose us on all sides without being silenced.

Theresa Corrigan



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PORNOGRAPHY IS THE

Most Women Dream Their Fantasies:

"Most women dream their fantasies... this woman lives them", reads the theater marquee. On the poster, a sleek, nude woman with open red lips and closed eyes writhes against the chains binding her hands and feet. The men I encounter on my stroll through downtown Sacramento seem to assume I too am dreaming of such a fantasy. I am confronted with various offers, verbal assaults sometimes accompanied with an open display of masturbation lest I doubt their sincerity. Dressed in Levis and a sweatshirt, I abstractly wonder about the sanity of the judge who contended that women tempt men irresistably by provocative clothing, as I slip into a bookstore to escape the attentions of a particularly persistent youth.

In the dim light of the bookstore, I see that its main attractions are 25¢ peep-show movies, at which two customers are engrossed. The bewildered proprietor asks for my ID, proof of my adulthood, and experiments with a leer. Besides 25¢ quickies, the store offers full length movies to take home, handcuffs along with a clutter of other paraphenalia for the home sadist, and a hugh collection of books with monotonously similar covers.

The themes seem to be insatiable nymphomaniacs, raped virgins and torturing, beating and murder of both. As I begin to jot down the titles which range from innocuous to explicit: "Love Gestapo Style". . ."Black and Chained" . . . , I am thrown out by the owner, whether for my unresponsiveness or inquisitiveness, I never know.

Further down the street, I examine the book section of a drugstore. Here I don't even have to prove I am 18 to see graphic depictions of sexual murders, dismembered women and rape in the detective magazines. These stories are told under the guise of the "good" detective who uncovers all these horrid crimes which happen to helpless women. If the victim lives (unlikely), she is endlessly grateful to her male savior and hero.

At home, on television, the same messages I got on the streets of Sacramento come across the screen. Only the crotch shots and four letter words are missing. The result of this single-minded censorship is evident in titillating discussions of sex and vivid portrayal of violence, especially sexual violence. Ironically, public protest focuses on either sex or violence on

television but neglects sexual violence. In popular movies again, the themes of sex and violence are combined. In "Looking for Mr. Goodbar", we see a woman who prefers sexual violence and abuse to love. With PG and R ratings, we still get the same message; women are exciting and entertaining victims. And in the music industry, women are again supposed to like to be abused. Remember the Rolling Stones advertisement in which a beaten woman is tied hand and foot with a picture of the Rolling Stones between her bound open legs. With a smile she told us: I'm "Black and Blue" from the Rolling Stones - and I love it!"

Commercial sado-masochism is the latest trend. A Vogue photographer pictures a woman's head being forced into a toilet bowl. An L.A. advertising executive was clear about his intentions towards women; "We decided to develop a campaign men could really identify with. We really wanted to give it to women."

Sex plus violence in media equals pornoviolence. Pornoviolence, a new name for an ancient practice. It is everywhere, not just in X-rated movies and sleazy sections of town, but in our homes, schools and minds. There is one problem with the word pornoviolence, it implies that there can be porno non-violence. In reality, there is no such thing. Pornography always involves women's bodies as sexual objects so it never depicts equal sexual relations, always dominance. How can there be equal relations between a person and a thing? Dominance implies violence to maintain its existence. Pornography is inherently violent.

It is tempting to dismiss pornoviolence as an artifact of our sick culture, not to concern ourselves with it, but instead focus on the "real issues" of equal rights and consciousness raising. A closer look reveals the undeniable effects of pornoviolence on society.

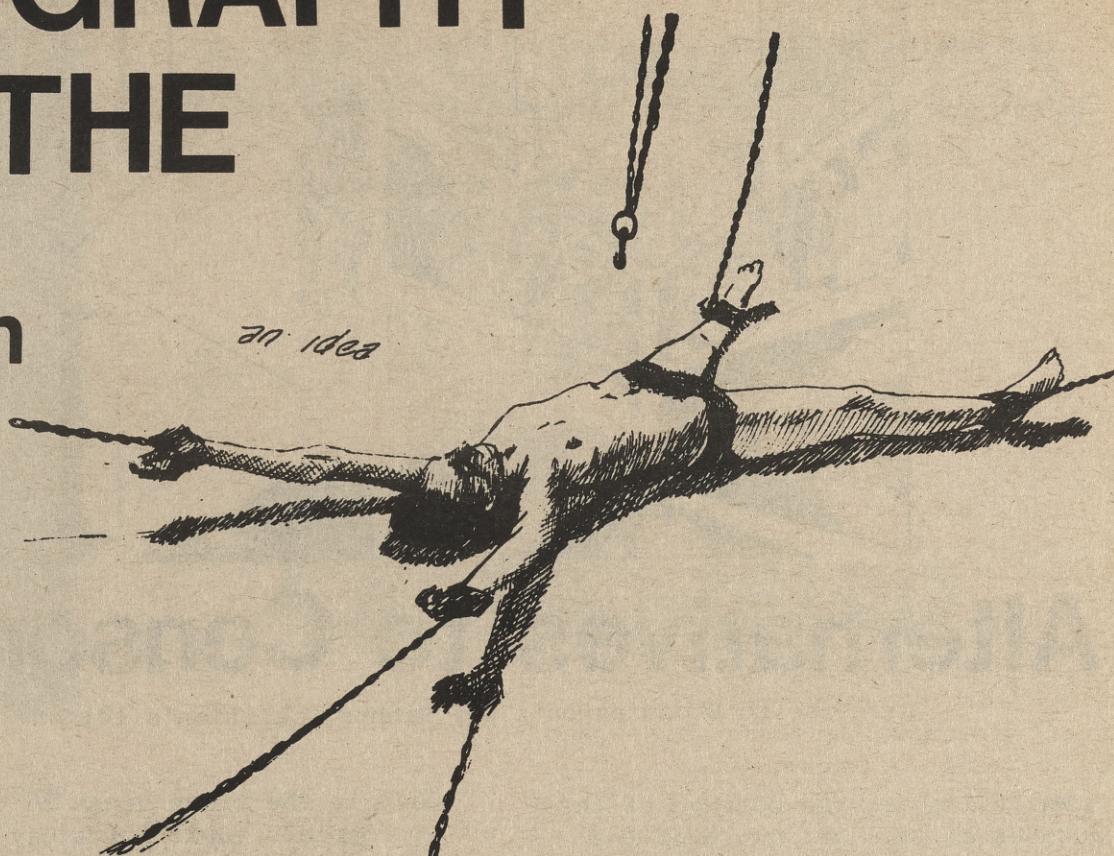
Recently, a young woman was raped

by her friends who had just seen a woman raped with a Coke bottle on TV. Law enforcement agencies around the country claim that pornographic material is a causitive factor in crimes of sexual violence, based on their own experiences with offenders. Whatever its origin, pornography is now used as anti-woman propaganda and violence against women is its result.

The media with peddles women's bodies as sex objects and women as either deserving or willing victims, not only reflects society, it affects it. Women are brought into pornography with promises of money or security, in much the same way they are forced into prostitution. They are kept there with drugs, threats and desperation. There are movies which use children as young as 3 years old, and show girls as young as six having intercourse with adult males. The portrayals of violence are not usually staged; they are real. But what chance does the woman who is sliced with a knife or has had her breasts dipped in boiling candle wax on film have of getting legal help or police protection?

Pornography makers have co-opted the concept of "sexual freedom", to defend their "right" to make money. In pornography, women are either slobbering slaves to sex, or innocent virgins. The uppity woman becomes the nymphomaniac when 'punished' by a man, perpetuating the male myth of "women need to be raped". This is their response to "women's libbers" who are accused of undermining men's identity, masculinity. Sex in the form of rape becomes a socially acceptable way of putting women who have, or want any degree of freedom in their place. Pornography has yet to portray a sexually free woman, but rather, continually does exactly the opposite.

Television and advertising have taken over the potentially revolutionary concept of "women's liberation". Their "truly" liberated woman is



IDEOLOGICAL BASIS OF OPPRESSION

primarily interested in sex in as many forms as possible, but she likes real (i.e. dominating) men best. She also wants to succeed in the system, but still be feminine (i.e. a thing), and never, never threaten masculinity (i.e. male power). The pornographic version of a liberated woman is found everywhere from Cosmopolitan magazine to the filthiest theater house. It has even permeated the liberal arm of the feminist movement, which emphasizes woman's acceptance within the existing social framework, but never challenges that framework.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE??

Because of the abhorrence of censorship, liberals would have us believe that any attempt to curtail pornography infringes on civil rights. While they are slightly less adamant about rapists and wife-batterers, in the name of sexual freedom and freedom of the press, we are discouraged from attacking the porno producers, and hesitant to appear reactionary, prudish, or both.

While Americans can easily see the function anti-Jewish propaganda had in Fascist Germany, we have more difficulty seeing this same function of anti-woman propaganda in sexist America. Caryl Rivers, of Boston University, has made this analogy, observing, "One of the thrusts of the Nazis' anti-Jewish campaign was to portray Jews as legal prey and to create an atmosphere that encourages and condones violent acts against them." Like Susan Brownmiller, we can ask if the liberal position would change if bookstores and movie theaters "were devoted not to the humiliation of women by rape and torture...but to a systematized, commercially successful propaganda machine depicting the sadistic pleasures of gassing Jews or lynching blacks?" Sometimes oppression is the hardest to understand when it is happening the closest to us.

We can not afford to ignore violence against any group or the institutions (including the propaganda machinery) which perpetuate it. In taking action against pornoviolence, our purpose must be clear, our actions understood and consistent with our beliefs in true sexual freedom and freedom of speech.

Stopping propaganda, like pornoviolence will not, in itself stop crimes against women. It must be combined with assertive self-defense and the larger struggle of redefining woman's role in society. Violence against women is an expression of the domination and control inherent in any social system where one group must be kept in line for the benefit of another. Women are kept in line so well because they are taught to be

and assumed to be passive. Meanwhile, men are getting the message that it is natural for them to be violent and sexually aggressive. Economic exploitation of others and racism become "natural" as well.

The media should be challenged whenever it perpetuates the ideology of domination. Only public outrage and action can stop those who block human liberation, be they Nazis, the KKK, rapists or pornography peddlars.

Alice Adee

A WAVAW RESPONSE

Pornography is violence. Even what is considered "harmless" porn presents women as objects; as tits or ass. When looking at 'soft' porn we can only be mildly appreciative that it is not more violent. We overlook the pictures of a woman's ass or one of a woman with her legs spread because they are not visually violent, however these pictures diminish the woman's human value. In pornography, women lose their human "ess" and they become objects. This can never be said too many times! We as women become objects in a male-structured, male controlled world. We subsequently suffer the consequences of being objects in a male dominated world. The consequences of existing



as objects in male minds and objects on the streets is that men are both aggressors and law makers and therefore decide how we are treated. We do not control our image and therefore we do not control our lives.

Pornography is the ideological basis of oppression. We are fairly familiar with oppression, but we often do not realize the relationship between theory and practice. We understand that porn objectifies women, just as the rape victim is objectified by the rapist. A prerequisite to rape is that the rapist does not see or think of his victim as a human, a person with a name or a family. In his mind she is a piece. A piece of the action, a piece of ass. In the ritual, she is named a whore, a bitch and therefore gets what she deserves...raped. The accomplice in each rape is the emotional distance between rapist and victim. The distance between actor and object.

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SOFTBALL

GAMES

Sacramento Women's Sports League has started its fast pitch softball season. Games are on Sundays at Curtis Park (off 12th Ave.). Single games start at 11:00 and double-headers at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome, refreshments sold.

April 30th	WOMEN OF DAVIS vs CRESCENT MOON
May 7th	WOMEN OF DAVIS vs CLIPPERS at 9 am CRESCENT MOON vs SWINGING SISTERS at 11
May 14th	THE CLIPPERS vs THE CRESCENT MOON
May 21st	SWINGING SISTERS vs WOMEN OF DAVIS
May 28th	HOLIDAY - no games
June 4th	Midway picnic, all teams play, all welcome to come
June 11th	CRESCENT MOON vs WOMEN OF DAVIS
June 18th	THE CLIPPERS vs SWINGING SISTERS
June 25th	WOMEN OF DAVIS vs THE CLIPPERS CRESCENT MOON vs SWINGING SISTERS
July 2nd	HOLIDAY - no games
July 9th	CLIPPERS vs CRESCENT MOON
July 16th	SWINGING SISTERS vs WOMEN OF DAVIS
July 23rd	CRESCENT MOON vs WOMEN OF DAVIS SWINGING SISTERS vs THE CLIPPERS

Spectators are welcome to join the teams after the game at the sponsoring bar (announced at the game).

SPORTS LEAGUE

The Sacramento Women's Sports League is now in its second year. The league's fastpitch softball season is now in progress. Games are played Sunday's at 11:00 (9:00 for double headers) at Curtis Park off 12th Ave. Other activities of the league are volleyball and basketball which will begin in the fall at Consumnes River College. The league also offers a variety of activities, a Woman's Motorcycle Club, and cooking classes. They hope to establish women's golf, pool, tennis, track, and gym. Learning classes will develop auto and motorcycle mechanics, fender and body repair, electrical repair and arts and crafts.

The desires and energies of Sacramento Area women have grown into the Sports League. I am asking talented women to share their knowledge. I need instructors, coaches, organizers and donations associates to assist the league.

Information can be obtained by calling 455-1400 or writing 6301 Broadway, Sacramento, Calif. 95820.

Ronni Baker



Photo by Cloud Giordano

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MUSIC

Music Festival

The Fifth National Women's Music Festival will take place in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois June 13-18. The festival will offer workshops and concerts celebrating women-powered music. Past concerts have featured Margi Adam, BeBe K'roche, Sweet Honey and the Rock and others. Registration before June 13th is \$30.00 including all workshops and concerts. After June 13th, it is \$40.00.

For more information contact National Women's Music Festival, P.O.Box 2721, Station A, Champaign, Ill., 61820, phone, 217-333-6443.

Michigan Music

We Want the Music Collective wants your input and co-operation regarding the August 17-20 Womyn's Music Festival to be held in Michigan. Women with talents and skills in fields outside of music are urged to participate in addition to women musicians. Send suggestions and inquiries to We Want the Music Collective, 1501 Lyons St. Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, 48858.

OWN

The Women's Information Service, a project of the Sacramento Women's Center, now has a new program. The Older Women's Network (O.W.N.) offers women over 55 services in the form of referrals and community service information, counseling, workshops, and literature of interest to the older adult.

O.W.N. is starting a task force for women who want to become politically active. Currently they are working on a community awareness project in an effort to defeat the Jarvis-Gann initiative.

OF INTEREST

May 6 & 7 a Job Search and Resume Workshop is being held at the Sacramento Women's Center, 1230 H St. Sacramento, Ca. The hours are May 6, 9am-2pm & May 7, 1-5pm. Mary Deuel will facilitate. Child care will be provided. \$5.00 donation requested. Call 442-4657.

May 13
West Coast Anti-Bakke Mobilization.
San Francisco
Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition
Sac. 451-7011 or 441-1919 or
443-7059
558 Capp St. S.F. 94110
(415) 648-4280

CAMPING

May 13

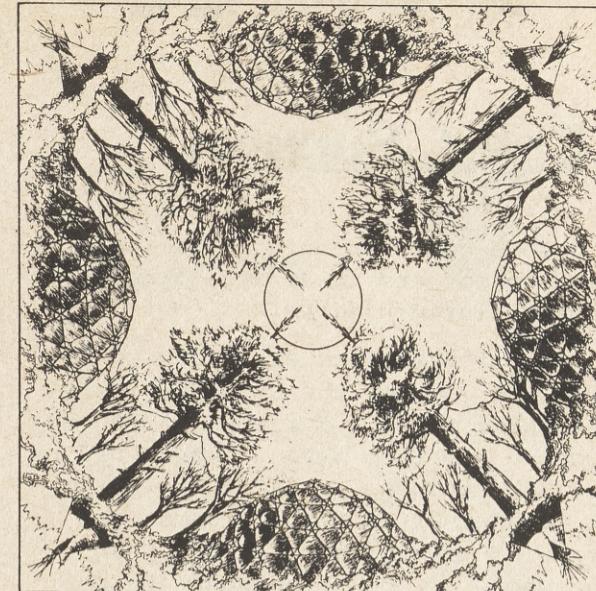
Wilderness Survival Workshop
Registration deadline: May 10, 1978
Leader: Jan Michelle Sawyer
Learn how to care for yourself in the outdoors. Being prepared for an emergency may mean the difference between life and death. The workshop will focus on survival techniques. Bring your lunch.

Group is limited to 20.

Cost: Camping Women members \$10.00, all others \$15.00.

May 20

Backpack Workshop
Registration Deadline: May 17, 1978
Leaders: Charlotte Williams/Emily Mast
This workshop provides information about what to look for when buying a pack, boots, or sleeping bag; what to take and how to pack, and what type of equipment and food to take along. You will learn to use the newest stoves while you cook your lunch of backpack food. Groups is limited to 15.
Cost: Camping Women members \$15.00, all others \$20.00.



May 26-29

Point Reyes Backpacking Experience
Registration Deadline: May 17, 1978
Leader: Joan McCarthy
This trip is a three day trip exploring the National Seashore at Point Reyes and perfecting your skills in camping and backpacking. Completion of this trip will qualify you for the Pathfinder Certificate.
Group is limited to 10.
Cost: Camping Women members \$60.00, all others 75.00, Deposit \$15.00.

June 3

Camping Adventure Workshop
Registration Deadline: May 31, 1978
Leaders Emily Mast/ Charlotte Williams
Camping Women has specifically designed this program for the new or inexperienced campers. Activities will consist of general camping skills such as tent pitching, outdoor cooking, use of axes and saws and how to plan a camping trip. Lunch will be provided.
Group is limited to 24.
Cost: Camping Women members \$10.00 all others \$15.00.

Marie Tabarez, staff member at the center said, "We feel that the Older Women's Network will be an effective program. We see a need for a place older women can come to receive support and become politically active again."

O.W.N. is recruiting volunteers. Women are needed to teach workshops, counsel and work on the referral file. For information call Jeanette Griswold at 442-4157.

Cathy Terry

May 13

Coronation Ball "All Nations Ball"
Sponsored by: The Royal Court of the California Kingdom
Where: Parking Lot, 2804 Auburn Blvd. Sac.

Time: 7:00 pm. Tickets: \$7.00 advance
\$8.00 at door

June 25-July 8

Tillie Olsen and Olga Broumas will appear at 'Women's Voices', a 13 day writing workshop sponsored by Santa Cruz's Women's Studies Program. The workshop is to encourage the development of more workshops so that writers and poets throughout the country will have easy access to them.

For information contact: Women's Voices: A Creative Writing Workshop, Women's Studies Program, Kresge College, U. of C., Santa Cruz, California, 95064.



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• a feminist news collective •

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UPDATES

Child Support

A double edged problem is facing Alaskan mothers in an aid to dependent children program.

Alaskan legislators are planning to withdraw some of the funds given to the Child Support Enforcement Agency because the form given women applying for aid includes questions relating to the number of times a woman had sex with the child's father, when and where it took place and if she has had sex with anyone else. Lawmakers denounce the questions as invasion of privacy.

Mothers on the aid program are concerned that the legislators act will cause more harm by eliminating the only source of funding available to their children. They are hoping to persuade the legislators to find a better solution.

Weather

Underground

Two members of the Weather Underground were arrested at the Houston IWY Conference for allegedly plotting to bomb the office of California State Senator John Briggs. Judith Emily Bissell and Leslie Mullin, now interred in Sybil Brown Institute at L.A. County jail, have been classified as "high security" prisoners. They are subject to illegal searches, sudden night removal from their cells, denial of access to exercise or day rooms and prohibition of communication with other prisoners. Their visitors are fingerprinted and photographed.

Acting as their own counsel, Bissell and Mullin are charging that their bail is excessive (\$750,000 for Bissell and \$500,000 for Mullin) - while a man, with two prior convictions for assault, who allegedly attempted to murder his wife was released on bail in L.A. County for only \$2500.00.

CIW

Two hundred women locked up March 1 for protesting unsatisfactory medical, food, sanitation and price conditions at the California Institute for Women at Frontera were released in mid-April. During a 32 hour sit-in, the women were locked up after being promised if they returned to their cells they would not be punished. Instead Superintendant Robert Borg had the strikers release dates delayed, classified them as security risks and restricted their housing and other privileges. The Department of Corrections is investigating prison conditions and Warden Karen Anderson has agreed to look into the women's complaints.



Save the Whale

The future for whales appears grim. In the past 50 years 2 million whales have been slaughtered to produce commercial products such as lubricants, wax, cosmetics, margarine, chicken feed, and pet food despite available substitutes.

While Japan and Russia are the two worse offenders, Peru, Chile, South Korea and Spain have major whale industries as well. A special meeting of the International Whaling Commission has raised the 1978 sperm whale kill quota to 6,444 from 1977's 763.

To protest, write:

International Whaling Commission
Secretariat Headquarters
Great Westminster House
Horseferry Pond
London, SW 1
England

President Carter
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

William Aron
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
Rockville, MD 20852

Write your senator, U.S. Senate
Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

Rape Protection

A bill requiring the state to provide a rape prevention program for state employees was passed by the Public Employees and Retirement Committee on April 18. AB2807, authored by Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, provides "a comprehensive educational and training program, the objective of which is to eliminate or severely reduce the incidence of rape on public employees".

Assemblywoman Waters hopes that the educational and training program will be modeled after a program that has been started by the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Rape Crisis Center provides DMV employees with sexual assault/rape prevention workshops and training in self defense. AB2807 would legislate a program which would include the following: an awareness of situations and conditions conducive to rape attempts; the ability to recognize signals indicating the possibility of a rape attempt; and training in basic self-defense methods designed to develop the necessary physical skills needed to be employed during a rape attempt.

AB2807 will be heard by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee sometime next month.

Violence and Abortion

The National Abortion Rights Action League reported that six abortion and women's clinics were burned in 1977 and numerous others were intimidated in the form of threats against the families of the staff members, gasoline thrown on employees, bullets fired at clients and firebombings. No one has been arrested or named as suspects even though descriptions of assailants and letters from people claiming responsibility have been given to police.

Marriage Penalty

Carol Burris, President of the Women's Lobby, recently addressed the House Ways and Means Committee to point out inequalities in President Carter's Tax Reform Plan. She is concentrating on provisions which penalize married women while favoring married men.

The "marriage penalty" clause applies to marriages where both partners are employed at equal pay rates and taxed higher than marriages where one partner earns much more than the other. In income splitting, a woman is paid for the household services she performs for others but not for her own home yet her husband is able to receive tax breaks for her work.

It was suggested the Committee subsidize single working mothers by way of tax credits as a means for equalizing tax breaks.

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Medical Updates

Sterilization

In 1971, Linda Sparkman was sterilized by court order without her knowledge or approval. Now twenty-two and married, Linda is suing the judge who granted the operation. The Supreme Court ruled in a 5-3 decision, that the judge cannot be held civilly liable for damages to Sparkman.

Pregnancy

Two New Jersey doctors have called for routine pregnancy tests for all women of child bearing age who enter a hospital. The urine test, which is 97% effective, could protect pregnant women from being given potentially harmful drugs.

Contraceptives

Encare-Oral, the new over the counter birth control method acclaimed for its almost 100% effectiveness, has been found by the Food and Drug Administration to be less than 85% effective. Encare-Oral is a tablet which when placed in the vagina, foams up to cover the cervix and reportedly kill sperm. Planned Parenthood recommends that the tablet be used with a condom.

Cigarettes

New studies have shown a dangerous link between cigarette smoking and estrogen. Women between 30 and menopause who smoke cigarettes and take birth control pills are more likely to suffer heart attacks than women who avoid one or the other. The FDA has recommended that warnings be put on estrogen prescriptions saying, "Women who use oral contraceptives should not smoke."

Cancer Test

A simple skin test has been developed that may eliminate the need for mammograms. The test is much like a tuberculin test in that the skin is scratched with a chemical and observed for irritation. While still in clinical trial the tests are scoring a 100% accuracy.

Cancer

In one of the first settlements in the country involving the controversial drug DES, a New Jersey drug concern has reached an out of court agreement with a woman who developed cancer after her mother took DES.

Carnrick Laboratories of Cedar Knolls agreed last week to pay an undisclosed amount of financial damages to Katherine Conwick Kershaw. Kershaw's lawsuit charged that she developed cancer as a result of her mother's taking DES 25 years ago to prevent miscarriage.

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Reinstatement of Rape Charge

A Honolulu grand jury has re-instated a rape charge against a marine who allegedly struck a woman jogger with his car, raped and sodomized her. The rape charge was dismissed by Judge Robert Richardson who said it was not a case of rape since the victim did not fight back.

Demonstrations were held protesting Richardson's decision and Women Against Rape in Honolulu threatened to have the 600 women participants in Hawaiian marathon races run in Richardson's court since the streets are no longer safe.

Richardson says he is considering closing all future preliminary hearings to the public adding, "I do not subscribe to the proposition that the public has an absolute right to know" about court proceedings.

ERA Boycott



The ERA boycott is working - the city of Chicago estimates its losses at \$15 million, Atlanta \$16 million, Miami \$9 million, Kansas \$1.25 million, St. Louis \$400,000 and Salt Lake City has lost \$250,000 since the 1st of January. Kansas City has asked the Missouri legislature to re-imburse the city for its loss reporting that 26 organizations are interested in scheduling conventions in Kansas City if the ERA is ratified.

ERA Extension

According to opinion polls, the majority of Americans support the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA has already been ratified in 35 of the 50 states in this country, and 3/4 of the population live in those 35 states. Yet the ERA still has not been ratified by the necessary 38 states because certain powerful, game-playing legislators in the 15 unratified states are purposely holding back the vote on this amendment until the clock runs out on March 22, 1979. Delaying tactics, vote switching and horse trading are among some of the games they play, rather than allow a real debate of the issues. In South Carolina where the ERA was just recently killed in committee, three of the pivotal votes switched at the last minute. One fellow traded his ERA vote for an education bill he wanted, another for a judgeship, and yet a third for a building to be named in his honor. Then there was the legislator who called a press conference an hour before the vote to announce his support of the ERA. Sixty minutes later he voted against it. In Nevada last year eleven legislators who had campaigned on a pro-ERA platform switched votes when it came down to the line, and the ERA was lost by eleven votes.

A nationwide effort to extend the deadline for ratification of the ERA is underway. HJ RES 638, a resolution

extending the time limit to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, is presently in the House Subcommittee for Civil and Constitutional Rights. We must lobby the three Californians on this committee:

Don Edwards, Chair PRO extension, thank him for his lobbying.

Anthony Bielenson - PRO extension, encourage him to lobby.

George Danielson - UNCOMMITTED - we must lobby him.

The vote could come out of this committee anytime. Hopefully, it will be for the extension. Then the resolution must go to the Senate Subcommittee on Constitution, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, and finally to the two full bodies. We must write letters and postcards to as many legislators as we can so that the measure will be rapidly approved. Write to: Rep. Harold Johnson (1st District) UNDECIDED, Rep. Robert Leggett PRO-ERA, Rep. John Moss, PRO-ERA, Senator Alan Cranston, PRO-ERA, and Senator S.I. Hayakawa, STRONGLY OPPOSED.

Other People we should lobby:

Rep. Thomas O'Neil, Jr., Speaker
Rep. A. Hawkins, Black Caucus
Rep. B. Sisk, House & Rules Committee
Rep. D. Clawsen, House & Rules Com.
Rep. J. Lloyd, Assistant whip
Senator Robert Byrd, Majority Leader
President Carter.

Carol Mehl

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CONTROLLING REPRODUCTION

The following article is reprinted from "Build On the Victories of Houston" a newspaper written by women in the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, an organization of women and men based on revolutionary anti-imperialist politics. They state, "As white people, part of the US oppressor nation, we are committed to active solidarity with the national liberation movements inside the US and around the world which are leading the struggle against the imperialist system. We believe that imperialism depends on the oppression of women and that the movement of women for liberation is a key force in the fight against this system. We see the movements for lesbian and gay liberation as essential to overturning the structures of male supremacy in this society. We are struggling to build socialist revolution, to build white working class movement in solidarity with national liberation and women's liberation and against all the structures of white and male supremacy which uphold imperialism. We want to participate in developing a strong women's liberation movement which can play a leading role in the defeat of US imperialism--the enemy of women and of all oppressed peoples worldwide."

For more information, contact: P.F.O., P.O. Box 40614 Station C San Francisco 94110

The Issues Before The Women's Movement

CONTROLLING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTION

From the beginnings of class society, women have been denied the right to control their bodies. Women's reproductive function has always been regulated and determined by what's best for male ruling class interests. In any society, the work of reproducing and raising children is vitally important. The ruling class needs children to be brought up to go along with the existing political and economic order—children who won't threaten the status quo when they grow up. If rulers are to stay in power, they must control women's reproductive and child raising roles.

Today, under the system of imperialism, it's still the same story. To maintain its economic and social power imperialism needs to regulate the numbers of children that are born and influence how mothers raise their children. Control over reproduction not only enforces the oppression of women but the oppression and exploitation of all oppressed peoples.

Because of the way in which the imperialist system is built, the ruling class has a different strategy for future generations of Third World people than for white working class people. US imperialism is built first and foremost on the domination of whole nations of people. This domination began with the very establishment by white Europeans of the thirteen colonies which came into existence through the robbery of the lands of Native Americans and the genocide of Native peoples. This domination continued with the kidnapping of millions of Africans, and the enslavement of those who survived. It was built through hundreds of years of brutal conquest and attack against lands and peoples from Mexico to Puerto Rico. Today it depends on the resources and labor of nations around the world from Southern Africa to the Middle East.

Within the borders of the US, oppressed nations and nationalities of Black, Native American,

Puerto Rican, Latino and Asian peoples continue to have a distinct relationship to the imperialist system. The reality of their oppression is qualitatively different than that of white working class people who are part of the oppressor nation.

Women of oppressed nationalities suffer from the male supremacy of imperialist society. But colonized women experience male supremacy in the context of the whole system of national oppression. They are affected by male supremacy in qualitatively different ways than white women. We can see this difference clearly in the distinct strategies which the ruling class has for controlling the reproduction of Third World women as compared to its plan for white working class women. Population control plans for colonized women primarily means eliminating their capacity to bear children altogether through massive forced sterilization programs. Recent cutoffs of federal funds for abortion force Third World women to have sterilizations or pressure them into cheap illegal abortions which endanger their health and lives. These all mean increased genocide for oppressed nation peoples.

On the other hand the main effect of the ruling class attacks on white working class women is to pressure them to bear more children and tie them more tightly to the traditional nuclear family structure.

We must fight these attacks on women and oppressed nation people. In order to build strong movements based on solidarity between white and Third World women, we must understand the very different ways in which colonized women and white women are affected by the strategy of the ruling class.

Forced sterilization has taken a genocidal toll on people of oppressed nations inside the US. One third of Puerto Rican women of child bearing age have been sterilized, one quarter of Native American women, and more than 20% of Black and Chicana/Mexicana women—huge proportions of their entire populations.

Forced sterilization of oppressed nation women goes hand in hand with the whole system of super-exploitation of oppressed nation people. Colonized people have always been used as the cheapest available labor for capitalism and imperialism. They provide a reserve pool of workers which the imperialists can draw upon when the economy is expanding and discard in times of crisis. When the ruling class has wanted more oppressed nation people to super-exploit, women of oppressed nations have been forced to bear children. For centuries Black women were forced to bear children into slavery who would be sold for a profit. But as resistance to imperialism gets stronger and national liberation struggles around the world are winning freedom and independence from imperialist domination, the imperialists need population control to try and contain the rise of these movements. All over the world, genocidal forms of population control have been instituted to wipe out the people of oppressed nations. In Latin America, South Africa and India, forced sterilization has been used in this way. For oppressed nation peoples, women's control over their ability to reproduce is a question of their people's survival as nations.

Although poor white women also suffer from forced sterilization, there is a considerable difference between the impact of sterilization programs on their lives. The chief targets of sterilization abuse among white women have been welfare mothers who exist at the very bottom of white society and who live outside the approved nuclear family structure. 16% of all white welfare women have been sterilized. For most white working class women however, the sterilization rate is much lower because the US government has different goals in controlling white women's reproductive function.

WOMEN DEMAND POWER OVER THEIR BODIES

In order for women to have any control over their own lives, they must have the right to determine if they want children, how many children they want and when they want to have them. In the 60's and 70's the women's liberation movement waged a determined battle for women's right to free abortion on demand. Millions of women struggled against being controlled by their biology. The 1973 Supreme Court ruling that gave women a legal right to abortion was a victory for women's liberation. Hundreds of thousands of women were able to have hospital abortions paid by Medicaid. Uncounted numbers were rescued from death at the hands of illegal abortionists.

On the other hand, these gains were limited in many serious ways. Many women could not find doctors who would do abortions and only 18% of all public hospitals ever did any abortions at all.

Most significantly, increasing numbers of Third World women were subjected to forced sterilization in the name of family planning. In their struggle for abortion rights, white women ignored the fact that colonized women were fighting the destruction of their peoples through forced sterilization. For years white women only paid attention to their needs for abortion. By not joining in solidarity with Third World women's struggle against forced sterilization, they actually collaborated with the increasing use of forced sterilization by the US government.

Consistently women of color have demanded that the white women's movement take up the fight against forced sterilization. At the IWY Con-



Minnie and Mary Alice Relf, aged 12 and 14, of Montgomery, Alabama, forcibly sterilized by a clinic that operated on U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity funds.

STERILIZATION, TOOL OF GENOCIDAL POPULATION CONTROL

While Carter cuts off abortion funds, sterilization money continues to pour into the hospitals and clinics that serve large populations of colonized peoples. Third World women are forced to submit to sterilization in many ways. Welfare mothers are told that their aid will be cut off if they refuse to be sterilized. Women without papers are threatened with deportation on the delivery table. Women are tricked into signing consent papers while they are drugged and in labor. Latinas are badgered into signing forms they cannot understand because they are in English. Women are told the operation is not permanent and only find out the truth when they want another child. Women in prison are forcibly sterilized.

vention after years of struggle, masses of white women took a strong position against forced sterilization as well as demonstrating firm support for abortion.

Third World women's strong support for abortion reflected the reality that disproportionate numbers of Third World women will die from self-induced abortions or on the dirty operating tables of quack abortionists, due to the cutoff of federal abortion funds.

The stands taken at Houston lay a new basis for building movements against the varied forms of attack which the government, with Carter in the lead, has been launching against women's control over reproduction.

CONTROLLING WHITE WOMEN

Recent cutoffs in federal monies for abortion have a specific, calculated effect on white working class women. Over the past ten years, growing numbers of white women have been challenging traditional male defined roles in the family. In breaking out of these roles in the family women are threatening the hold which white and male supremacy have over their lives. Abortion cutoffs attempt to reinforce control over women for several purposes. They pressure white women into having more children at a time when the state needs more white people who can help with the suppression of national liberation struggles. By limiting women's control over reproduction, the ruling class attempts to push women back into the nuclear family structure where they can more easily reinforce unwaged labor in the home reproducing and caring for children and men. Increasing women's childcare responsibilities, without providing more childcare facilities, forces more women out of the labor market at a time when there are fewer and fewer jobs available. On the other hand there are increased pressures for women to find jobs in order for the family to live decently. In this way women are forced to work under more superexploited job conditions just to get by and their ability to take up the struggle against those conditions is undermined by their increased childcare responsibilities. Through these attacks, the State and ruling class hopes to stem the tide of women who are leaving oppressive family situations, or struggling for new independence within their families.

Right-wing forces like Right-To-Life and the Klan are playing an important role in mobilizing support among white working class men and women to back up government attacks on women's liberation. They play on men's fears of losing power within the family to organize them against abortion and women's independence. They use the fact that the traditional nuclear family offers white women financial advantages, access to better living conditions, better schools and health care to stop women from fighting for increased independence from fear of losing the security they have. Right-wing campaigns such as those launched against IWY were attempts to organize women to choose limited privileges in the family over the possibilities of long range gains.

A VICTIM

it's still a man's world
becuz women don't use
the brains they were born
with...
She sleeps all nite
drunk
with a safe, good man
and she doesn't have the
brains
heart cunt
she was born with--
She got rape & didn't even
know it
(Too drunk couldn't wake up)
got V.D. & wondered
who fucked her

The woman is killing herself & doesn't even know it...

She thinks it's a man's
world
blames "Them" for the
disease in her soul/cunt
She got fucked
got raped
was fed alcohol
in place of gentle
lovers
She hated her mother
& loved her daddy.
The "good" man is a vampire
(he would do anything for her)
Eating the disease of her soul
he fucked her
and she didn't even know it.
Sierra

ON THIS HOT AUGUST DAY

On this hot August day
the soil is parched
and arid from months
of not enough water
as is my soul

Some life remains
Century plants and
other spiny cactuses
hardened with years
of savage deprivation
but though they survive
they are too brittle
to touch
like me

Once a year they blossom
screaming their being
to the sun and whoever
else will listen.
shouting their existence
with soft purples and pinks
and then they again become
spiked, barbed
as is my heart

Susan Trieste Collins

reprinted from "Poetry from Violence"--San Francisco Conference on Violence Against Women.



graphic from "Poetry from Violence"

Immediately after IWY Congress proceeded to pass repressive abortion legislation giving the lie to their stated desire to listen to what women want.

At IWY thousands of white women refused to accept these terms. Instead they pushed forward their demands to control their bodies, their child bearing and their lives. They began to link their struggles with the struggles of oppressed nation peoples for independence and freedom.

The right-wing has been upping the ante on its anti-abortion campaign. In January there were anti-abortion mobilizations around the country. In California there's a drive to get an anti-abortion initiative on next November's ballot. In Akron, Ohio the right-wing forces are using a struggle for an anti-abortion law as a springboard for their attacks on women. In February they went so far as to firebomb an abortion clinic in Akron.

Now is the time for the women's movement to

take up the fight for abortion and against forced sterilization in a militant and strong way. These are important parts of women's overall struggle to control not only how many children we raise, but our right to determine how our children will be raised. Women living outside families, lesbian women and women inside families all have the right to raise children. We must fight to bring up children who will reject the whole US system of exploitation, oppression, white supremacy and male domination. From this perspective we can build a movement for women's control over reproduction which can help challenge the foundations of US imperialism.

GREAT GODDESS RE-EMERGING

"There was a time when you were not a slave--remember that. You walked alone full of laughter. You bathed bare-bellied. You say you have lost all recollection of it--Remember. You say there are no words to describe this time. You say it does not exist but remember. Make an effort to remember, or failing that-invent."

Monique Wittig

In April, 500 women and a handful of men met in Santa Cruz for the symposium, "The Great Goddess Re-Emerging". The participants shared a thirst for knowledge regarding an intriguing concept--The Goddess; a tri-aspected deity embodying the pre-Judeo-Christian religions, the elements of witchcraft, and the modern experiences of women. The participants came to share, to discover and re-discover, to experience and re-experience, to remember the Goddess.

She was first, before Allah, before Jesus, before Buddah, before Yahwah. She was Gaia, Quan Yin, Ix Chel. She had a thousand names and aspects. She was the Great Creatrix of life, of the universe. She represented the mystery of life. She was part of Everywoman. Through massive bloodshed and a carefully executed campaign to eradicate every vestige of her existence, the Goddess religion

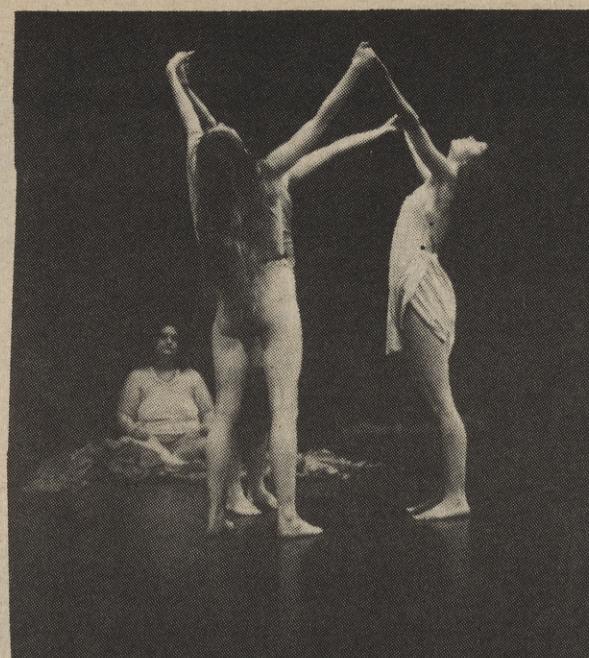


photo by Tinker Ramey

gave way to the patriarchal gods. Woman's heritage was deprived, we were taught that God created man in his image and, as an afterthought, formed woman out of man.

Feminism allowed us to see ourselves as strong beings with rights and powers. The re-emergence of the Goddess is a logical extension of feminism. Some feminists express concern that Goddess consciousness diverts women's energy away from important political and social issues. Rather, it offers women a means to develop, channel and replenish their energies. The Goddess embodies the universal creative force and flow as well as being part of every woman's experience--pain, joy, sorrow, power, strength. The Goddess is the young

strength. The Goddess is the young maiden (Persephone, Artemis) as she enters womanhood; the Goddess is the woman rich in life and experiences (Demeter, Selene); the Goddess is the woman wise in life's secrets and long in years.

The Goddess consciousness does not seek to replace existing gods; to replace implies merely reversing the deity's sexual identity. Instead feminist witchcraft and Goddess consciousness re-examines religion from a feminist perspective, allowing us to see the oppression of the patriarchal religion. Matriarchal religion seeks not to create a religion but rather to define women's spirituality in terms of women and women's power.

The conference in Santa Cruz was a blend of theory and practice. Ritual, an important part of the event, interspersed with scholarly speakers. Hundreds of women danced and chanted, sang and moved. The conference gave many of us a first glimpse into a new realm of possibilities. It felt good to be a strong woman among strong women of all ages, and to share in our power in a new and vital way. This is not the first such gathering of women concerned with the Goddess, nor is it the last. Every Equinox, every Solstice, every moon, women gather. There are many small groups and covens in the Sacramento area. There are magazines like Womanspirit and Lady-Unique-Inclination-of-the-Night and numerous books. The resources are there. Search and remember.

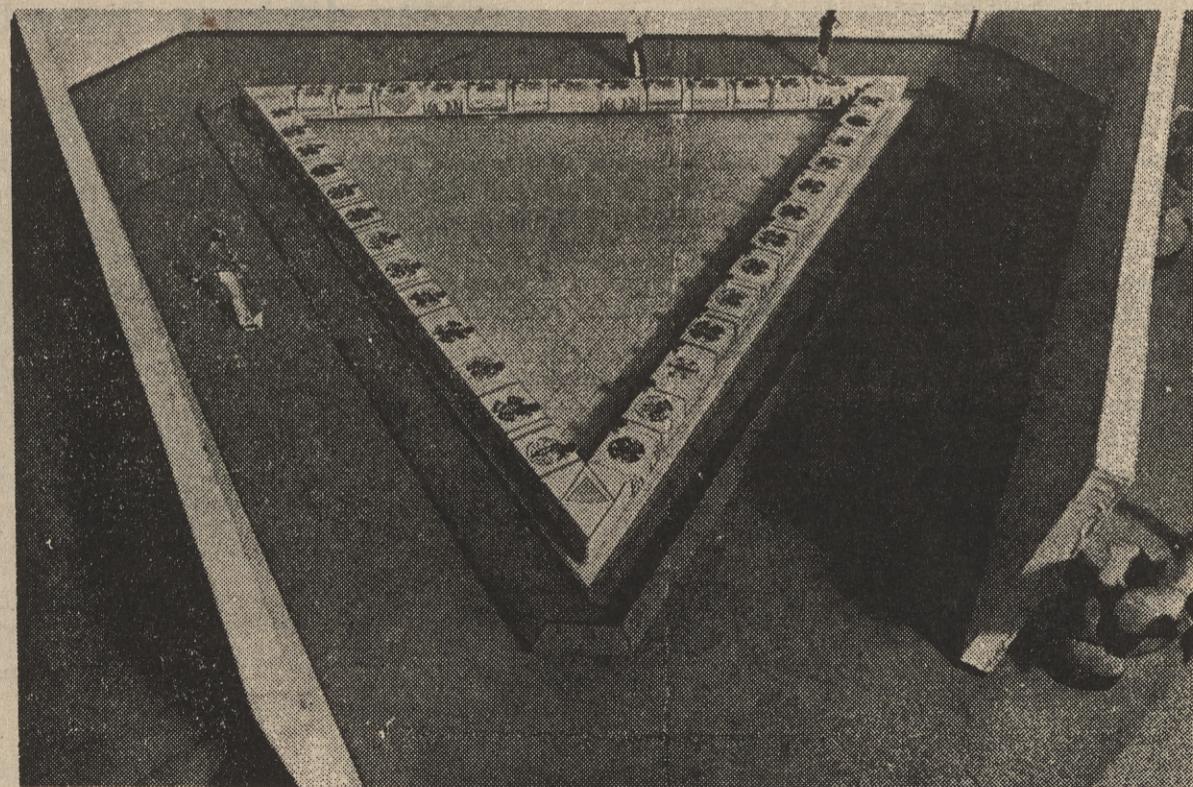
Tinker Ramey

"THE DINNER PARTY"

"The Dinner Party", a feminist sculpture created by Judy Chicago with help from over 200 artists, can soon be seen at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The sculpture honors 39 mythological and real women from Gaia to Georgia O'Keefe, and they each have a setting along the 46½ foot long triangular table. Each setting is symbolized by a tool, painted plate and each historical setting will have an embroidered piece of fabric. The table stands on a porcelain tile floor bearing the names of 999 other women. Also traveling with "The Dinner Party" will be a video tape showing how the piece of art was put together.

The work was originally conceived by Judy Chicago and is being constructed in her studio in Santa Monica. The project is in its fourth year and over 200 people have worked on it.

The core of the project is making art, and the art is embedded in feminist history and philosophy. The project started in the early 1970's when Chicago tired of her canvas and turned to china painting. She toyed with many ideas and while doing so, turned out the "Butterfly Goddesses and other Specimens". Finally in 1974, while attending a dinner party, Chicago realized that "Women have never had a Last Supper, but they have had dinner



parties. Lots and lots of dinner parties where they facilitated conversation and nourished other people." Shortly after this, Chicago worked out the plan for "The Dinner Party". She chose a triangle because "it's the first sign of the female, and an equilateral triangle because it is the most stable form".

As more and more people heard about Chicago's idea, the project gathered momentum, both in people wanting to

help and financially. The project has received financial support from people sending donations and from a grant of \$21,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

According to Chicago, the importance of "The Dinner Party" is taking control of our history is very important because identifying ourselves, affirming our accomplishments is what will end our invisibility on every level.

Lynn Patten

Burning Questions

BURNING QUESTIONS by Alix Kate Shulman, Knopf, 1978.

The heroine and narrator of Burning Questions is Zane, who, born and raised in small town Indiana, escapes to Greenwich Village. She lives on the fringes of the beat world, marries a lawyer, has three children, and, never really happy, dabbles in the anti-war movement. Eventually she discovers woman's liberation. She becomes active in and transformed by the movement. Little pieces of her past dissatisfaction fall into place as part of a larger oppression. She demands control over family finances and no longer feels apologetic about asking her husband to baby sit. As a member of a radical feminist collective she protests the Miss America pageant, helps create a women's history slide show, and falls in love with another member of the collective.

Burning Questions is an ambitious book. In it Shulman has tried, through Zane, to write a definite personal/political history of contemporary feminism. Into the story of Zane, she has woven bits of the lives of past revolutionary feminists, to whom she compares her heroine. But Zane is no Emma Goldman, no Rosa Luxemburg. Her revolutionary fervor springs more from a desire to "share the passion and action of her time" than from true conviction. She wears hiking boots in the late 1960's as assiduously as she had worn a long pony tail in beat cafes ten years earlier. In the midst of declaring her separatist intentions to her lover she remembers that she has to call her husband, and does. Always eager to be in step with the times, in the 1970's Zane retreats from political activism to a job teaching Woman's Studies and to coffeehouse discussions of politics.

If Zane is a lukewarm version of a revolutionary feminist, it only makes matters worse that Shulman has her describe her life in a manner that almost parodies the autobiographical style of the early 20th century feminists Zane sees as her models. The prose is cumbersome, the insights studied.

Claiming that she is trying to show "the experience of the individual in relation to historic events" Zane never lets the reader in on the details of her relationships with less historic friends, lovers, husband. Thus she and they remain curiously flat, stick figures trotted out by Shulman to prove a political point. Although she has Zane repeat the axiom "the personal is political," Shulman doesn't allow her to act on it by revealing herself to the reader. Shulman seems to have forgotten that, in a novel, reflections on the nature of oppression are no substitute for living, breathing characters.

It is tempting to dismiss Burning Questions as a long-winded self-conscious rip-off of the women's movement. But, while it isn't the book Shulman is capable of writing, it is a monumental attempt, and fascinating in its very failure.

Whitney Rogge



graphic by
J. Marie

Tribute To Malvina

The Berkeley Community Theater on Thursday, May 18th will be the site of an evening of musical tribute to Malvina Reynolds who died March 17th.

Pete Seeger, Margi Adam, Rosalie Sorrels, Country Joe McDonald and Bay Area musicians are donating their performances to organizations Malvina supported.

Tickets are available at all B.A.S.S. outlets. All seats are priced at \$4.00 and are reserved. Proceeds will go to Women Against Rape, People Against Nuclear Power, National Committee Against Repressive Legislation and INFAC (Nestle boycott). Childcare will be provided.

Wake Up Hollywood

Women are often not recognized for their artistry in acting because women seldom have important roles. The roles are missing from the Hollywood industry because they are not written in the first place. In 1977 two major women identified films were produced, "Julia" and "Turning Point". Both films were Best Picture Nominees and both films possibly reflect a changing dogma of the film industry. Perhaps what stopped these films from achieving the coveted respect of Oscar is the obvious lack of male dominance. Neither film indulged in typical celluloid fantasies such as violence, sex, conquest, masculine strength, nor did they provide audiences with outrageous visual time warp affects.

"Julia" and "Turning Point" are different, they speak of a difference. Through the harsh realization of changes in "Turning Point" to the beautiful'ness' of commitment and love in "Julia" we see women with convictions; to their families, their careers, themselves and to other women. The films make a poignant comment about women in the seventies; they take the strength, ability, and the emotional capacity of all women throughout the centuries and proclaim careers, politics, love and respect.

Hardly can one say the "Turning Point" and "Julia" are not worthy of mention. Unfortunately, "Turning Point" only was mentioned, and "Julia" won three awards, although both films were nominated in several categories. The award for Best Supporting Actress went to Vanessa Redgrave.

Redgrave received her Oscar with enthusiasm, not only for herself, but also for Jane Fonda. She thanked the Academy for being firm with the Zionist demonstrators, and noted the importance of political freedom. Finally it appeared that the Academy had developed a public attitude about politics and women, until Redgrave was denounced for her acceptance speech. Was Redgrave's award political? It was given to a political women-it was given for a role in a political movie-it was accepted in an atmosphere of political dissension- it was accepted with a worthy comment.

Lynn Patten

Your Show

"YOUR SHOW" an exhibit of Women's Art will be at the California Art Pavilion in Sacramento, June 3-11. This celebration of Women's Art is sponsored by the California League of Women Artists. The show features multi-media work of visual artists and women's theater, music and dance. There will also be paintings, graphics, photography, sculpture, fibers, stitchery and jewelry.

16 Yvonne Day (con't)

continued from page 1.
case was filed by the Commissioners. Kinnex also interfered with work for Don Parks, the Black Medical workers, SCCMC and more. Another example of subversive behavior on Kinnex's part was when Ms. Day told Kinnex that she was going out on an assignment, and when asked by Commissioners of her whereabouts, he told them he did not know.

Personal Harrassment

Because of a back injury, Day was on sick leave for two weeks. She returned to work and informed Kinnex that she was wearing a back brace and felt ill. He was doubtful and argumentative about her illness. He asked her for a full medical report to verify her fitness for continued employment. He then proceeded to physically examine her. He felt her from the top to the bottom of her brace which began under her breast and ended at the top of the buttocks. On another occasion Kinnex had Ms. Day in his office, he pushed her in the chest with the open part of his hand three times. When Day got up to move out of his way, he grabbed her by the arm and attempted to hit her on the buttocks. She told

him if he slapped her the Commissioners would hear about it, so he stopped. Ms. Day then told him that if there were no further items related to her work, she would leave. Kinnex said "if you leave this room, I'll fire you" and Yvonne left the room.

Besides the sexual harrassment, Ms. Day had to fight for other assumed rights. For instance she fought for her 148 hours of comp. time. CTO time was always allowed to HRC professional staff employees, but when Day asked for her comp time she was told that the Commissioners had abolished the CTO policy. The Commissioners made no provisions to pay the staff for existing CTO, or to allow the staff to exhaust the CTO on the books. Kinnex took all existing CTO off the books as though it never existed.

There are several more incidents concerning prejudicial treatment by Kinnex to HRC employees, all significant and all important, but we must focus our concern. We as women must stop this harrassment so that effective people can work effectively. Prejudice is apparent on all levels of government; county, state, federal. Why must women constantly be sub-

jected to racist and sexist treatment when they are obviously positive assets to organizations.

Yvonne Day is a strong black woman who is standing up for her rights. She is determined that her rights not be eliminated as a black, as a woman, or as a human being. "Being female and black has made me realize that I can't become what the oppressor has always been. Freedom is a high price. One must protect his/her own rights and insure the rights of all others in order to maintain being free. I hope Mr. Kinnex and Mr. Cullers will find that truth", states Yvonne.

Those of us at the Rape Crisis Center, the Women's Center and in the community are here to see that those rights are not infringed upon. We are joining Yvonne Day in asking for your support to fight tyranny and corruption that is so prevalent in our society. Yvonne Day is demanding a hearing and reinstatement with back pay and compensation for time lost. We join her in asking for your support by writing letters protesting Ms. Day's firing and contributions to help pay legal fees.

Lesbian Nation Documented

Our Right To Love, A Lesbian Resource Book. Edited by Ginny Vida. Prentice Hall. \$12.95

For your mother, for your lover, for the girl next door--Our Right to Love is the most sophisticated and comprehensive work on lesbianism to date.

Our Right to Love is about public education and us. The handsome, 9x11, 370 page, picture filled documentary speaks tastefully and knowledgeably about every facet of our lives. If someone told me there exists a book with articles about sex, courtship, and custody, about civil rights, music, and love, that I and my mother would both find inspiring, I would have said, "impossible!" But Our Right to Love exists for us now. It's clear and simple, short on rhetoric, long on top quality writing, emotional and above all very, very proud. In-depth articles written by dozens of our most well known authors explore every thing from love making to theory. And unknown, sometime anonymous, lesbians give us personal testimonies detailing the fears (rejection, jail) and joys (love, activism) of our reality.

Our Right to Love is also for us. Lesbians who came late to the movement can now re-capture the historical glories and infamies of Lesbian Nation. In "Reminiscenses of Two Female Homophiles" founding mothers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon put together the truly first National Lesbian Conference--the year was 1960! Explaining that most early activists used pseudonyms, we learn that when Phyllis wanted to come out of the closet, her non de plume was so widely known through The Ladder they had to "kill" her in an obituary



column. Sidney Abbott recounts the long sticky story of NOW and "the lesbian issue," Nancy Todor in "Sexual Problems" says in print what we think about in bed, and Rita Mae is "exhilarated" because "a few years ago I would have had to write this whole book. Think of the time this saves me!"

In pictures and often poetic prose this book says; I am aged, I am a child, I am black and brown and trampled upon, I am a doctor, a lawyer and an Indian dyke, a socialist, a hard ass, a loving mother of four. I don't apologize, I don't beg, I'm telling you about Our Right to Love.

Jeanne Cordova
Reprinted from Lesbian Tide

Our Right to Love is available at the Sacramento Women's Center Bookstore.



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